

Beaver activity has affected flow regimes in both Piney Creek and Long Run that have had negative impacts on mitigation activities. Failure of a step pool complex along Long Run is currently being addressed and will result in improved stream recovery and enhancement.

Wildlife use has been documented during all site visits and during the wetland monitoring events. The WMAs and stream restoration and preservation areas provide valuable habitat for aquatic, semi-aquatic, and terrestrial wildlife. The project provides habitat for mating, spawning, and rearing habitat for fish and amphibians, suitable nesting, rearing, and feeding habitat for wetland-dependent bird species, and escape cover for a wide range of wildlife species. In addition, the WMA provides water quality functions, stormwater and floodwater storage capacity, and sediment control functions for Long Run and the Piney Creek watersheds.

CEC concludes that construction of the WMA has successfully created functional wetlands and that stream restoration/enhancement efforts have stabilized many stream bank areas along Long Run and Piney Creek. The site has met some of the success criteria and performance standards established in the permits and mitigation plan. CEC has determined, however, that corrective actions are likely needed to achieve full compliance with the mitigation performance standards.